A Guide to Preprocessing Calcium Imaging Movies

From calcium imaging movies to nwb file

Introduction

This manual will help you carry out data analysis from 2-photon imaging movies, starting from the acquisition to the data analysis, focusing on data preprocessing. The manual is based on the combination of a few programming languages, different softwares and deep-learning algorithms allowing to preprocess the raw data, leading to its analysis. Each step will be detailed to ease this arduous process, especially, the preprocessing of the data.

However, prior to this process, some prerequisites need to be respected.

Prerequisites

This part is dedicated to the installation of the different softwares and the potential issues that may occur during this step. Beware that some of the softwares needs to be installed in a certain order (it will be mentioned) so now let's dig in!

First, you need to install Anaconda. It is a free open-source distribution that manages packages for R and Python programming languages, the installation is simple: follow the steps at https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/install/.

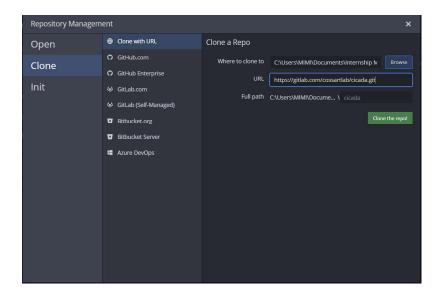
Now that the Python distribution is installed, you can install "Suite2p". Suite2p is an algorithm developed by Carsen Stringer and Marius Pachitariu for cell detection in two-photon calcium imaging movies. To install it, go on their github repository and follow the steps: https://github.com/MouseLand/suite2p. Note that, it is easier to copy/paste the environment.yml into a text file than cloning the repository. Also, keep in mind that the directory where you put the environment.yml is where your virtual environment is located i.e. where you will run suite2p. Beware that Pyqt (a Python package for Graphic Interface) won't work on Yosemite Mac OS, so you won't be able to install suite2p...

The second software to install is Gitkraken, a Graphic User Interface for Git. It will help you clone repositories, commit, drag/drop, track your tasks, projects on gitlab or github. To install it, follow the steps on https://www.gitkraken.com/download.

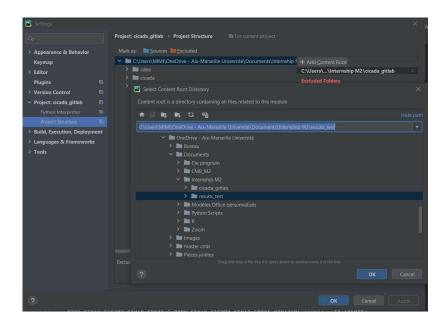
Once Gitkraken is installed, create an account and you will be ready to clone repositories. The screenshot below shows you how to do it. For the first repository,

create a file "deepcinac_gitlab" and clone it at

https://gitlab.com/cossartlab/deepcinac.git and put it in the "deepcinac_gitlab" file . For the second one, create another file "cicada_gitlab" and clone the CICADA repos at https://gitlab.com/cossartlab/cicada.git and put it in the "cicada_gitlab" file.



The next step is the installation of Pycharm Community that you can find on https://www.jetbrains.com/fr-fr/pycharm/download/#section=windows and choose the 3.3 version. (more details on Pycharm IDE in the pptx related). Now that you have installed it, you have to add your project to the path, in other words, add the folder containing all the files related to the module. For that, go to File Settings > Project:Cicada_gitlab > project structure > add content root, like below:



To ensure that CICADA is working well, open Pycharm and Open Project, go to the directory where cicada gitlab repository is located and select it. You will have the arborescence of the folders and subfolders of the project on the left.

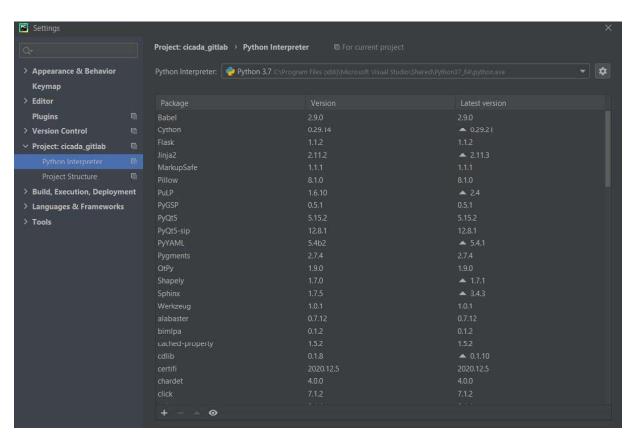
Select in the arborescence cicada_gitlab>cicada>src>cicada>main.py, the script will appear in the right panel. Change the configuration to CICADA and run the script.

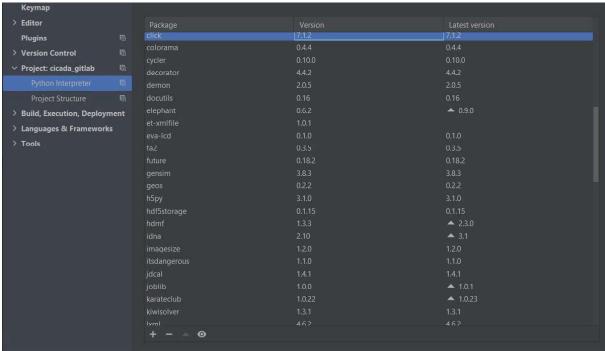
```
| Disconting | Doctor | Doctor
```

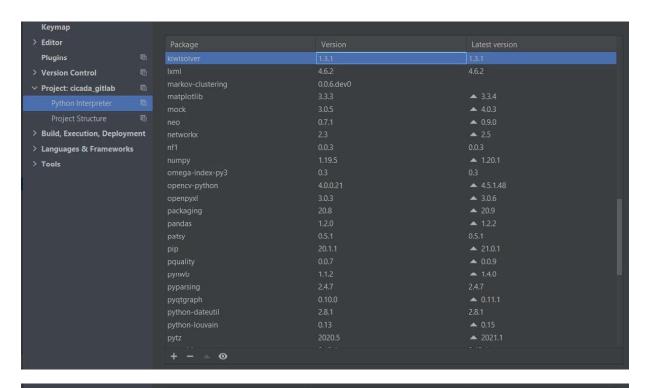
At this level, beware of the compatibility and potential conflicts with the packages you will need to install. You will find below a list of the packages that I personally installed with a Windows 10 and a Pycharm 3.3 with a Python interpreter 3.7.

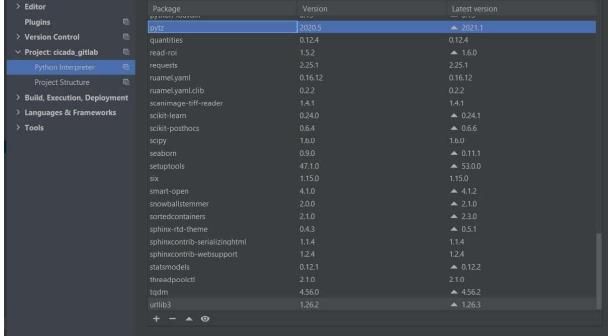
<u>Tip</u>: if you don't know which interpreter you use on Pycharm, go in

File > Settings > Project:Cicada_gitlab > python interpreter. This also allows you to see the list of the installed packages for each interpreter and manage their version.

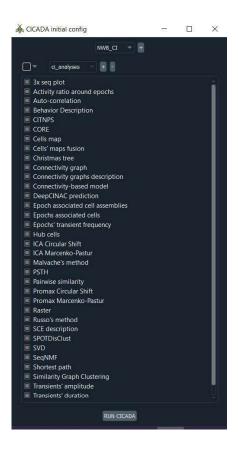








Once the packages are installed correctly, you will be able to run and see the initial configuration interface of CICADA (figure below). This panel summarizes the operations that you can perform with CICADA.



Hit the RUN CICADA button. The next window has 3 panels: left one is for the chosen .nwb files to process (just select the directory), the center is to select the wanted tasks and the right one is for results and tasks tracking that Cicada is performing. Many tasks are available, you just have to select it on the center panel, before launching the Badass GUI. Once you hit the Badass GUI button, another window corresponding to the task you want appears.



For some further preprocessing steps, you will need to install a computing environment focused on mathematical and technical computing, the best in the field is Matlab. Assuming that you can pay the mensual subscription to Matlab or have a licence thanks to your university, download the version 2018a on:

https://fr.mathworks.com/products/get-matlab.html?s_tid=gn_getml .

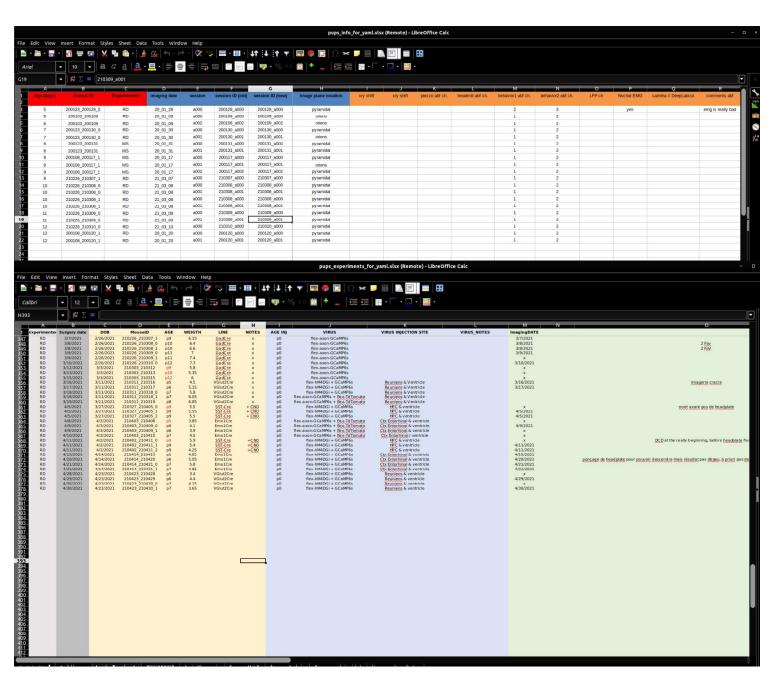
Creation and implementation of the architecture

Data preprocessing and analysis are long and recurrent tasks. To optimize your time and not get bogged down in an ocean of data, you will need to implement a clear and well-ordered architecture to organize your data.

First, a unique ID is assigned to each experiment (i.e. each imaging session), its pattern is as follows: "birthdate_surgerydate_imagingdate_fieldname". For example, the imaging movie of a mouse born on 14/10/2021, underwent surgery on 22/01/2021 and imaged one hour after, is named 210114_210122_210122_a000. Note that "fieldname" is a000, since it is the first session on the mouse, however if you want to image another field, then the imaging movie will be named 210114_210122_210122_a001.

Then, for each experiment, experimental metadatas are stored in two excel files. To be more efficient, use the existing excel files, on the NAS, located in the "new_yaml_files" folder (just make sure you don't erase the others' lines). They are called <code>pups_experiments_for_yaml</code>, referred to as <code>main</code> and <code>pups_info_for_yaml</code>, referred to as the <code>external</code>. The <code>main</code> contains many sheets, including the "<code>Imaging</code>" sheet in

which the information concerning the pups, and the imaging field and observations, are. The **external** one contains many sheets as well, these sheets describe the kind of experiments that were conducted, for example, the "SST-CRE" sheet. In this external file, there are details of the weight and the age of the pup, the drug administered and experimental conditions. For both files, each line describes one experiment (\rightarrow one pup can refer to multiple lines).



Imaging and Acquisition

The imaging session is performed one hour after the surgery, in the casquette. The cannula is filled with a liquid since we use immersion microscopy. Each calcium imaging session is composed of 5 blocks of 2500 frames in .tiff format. In our case, we also recorded simultaneously the behavior of the mouse with two cameras, the two movies were in tiff format. Once the acquisition is launched, the signals from the two cameras synchronized with the microscope's are recorded with Clampex and exported as a .abf file.

Once the imaging is over, convert the .msr files from ImspectorPro in .tiff, for that, in ImspectorPro, go in File>Batch conversion, select your directory and the .msr files to convert. When you launch the conversion, it is common that ImspectorPro is lagging.

We also need to convert the behavior movies in .avi. The conversion is performed by running the code 'convert_tiff_to_avi' on pycharm. In the script, change the name of the experiment: "subject_id", the name of the camera (cam1/cam2): "cam_folder_id_1" and the name of the field: "cam_folder_id_2". Pycharm allows you to perform simultaneous conversions, indeed, you have a pin icon, on the lower left of the console. Pin the running tab and open another one to run another conversion. That way, you can run up to 5 conversions at the same time. However, this step is a bit time-consuming and uses a lot of CPU, therefore, it is preferred to run conversions at night.

The following steps don't require the immediate use of the converted movies. At this point, the raw data consists of the 5 tiffs and the .abf file. The next step is the concatenation of the 5 .tiff movies into a final one. You can perform it on FIJI (use concatenate in Tools menu). Now that we have an unique imaging movie and the file containing the synchronized data, we can move to the preprocessing.

Main steps of the preprocessing

Convert behavior monitoring from ".tiff" to ".avi"

To make sure the conversion can be done without changing the python code this arborescence should be respected:

- Animal_ID (e.g. folder name "p5_210105_210110")
 - cam_ID (folder name is either "cam1" or "cam2")
 - field_of_view_ID (e.g. folder name "210110_a000)

The conversion should be done directly on the acquisition computer to save time. It can also be done on another computer if the data is on an external hard drive(just take more time)

Use the code: only a few lines have to be modified to set the paths.

Here add some screenshots showing how to adapt the paths to convert the movies

Data transfer on local disk

- Create a folder that will be used later to create the ".nwb" data file.
- Transfer data from the disk extension to the local disk in the "nwb" creation folder:
 - → ".abf" data from the axoscope recording (be sure it is recorded @50 kHz)
 - → ".avi" data from the behavior monitoring
 - \rightarrow ".tiff" files

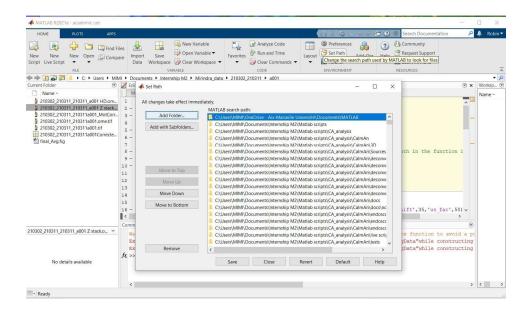
Motion correction

During the imaging, distortions following x,y-axis and z-axis are likely to occur. The motion corrects these distortions as much as possible and relies on a simple principle: a frame (or a frame resulting from the mean of stable frames) is used as reference and each frame is aligned with it. There are two methods available: the cropping method by M. Picardo and the black stripes by Yannick.

- The cropping method involves the cropping, for all the frames, of the "unaligned parts" for each frame, in order to equalize. This method offers a great deal of the distortion in the x and y axis.
- The back stripes consist of putting black stripes on unaligned parts. This method deals averagely with distortion in x and y axis; however, it behaves greatly with any offsetting in z-axis.

Whatever the method you choose, you will run the motion correction on Matlab. They

are named **MotCorre.m** and **Yannick_MotC.m**. For both, you have to change the directory to where your raw movie is located. You can change it either from the left panel or add the folder containing the tiff, using "set path" in the Home panel.



It takes the tiff as an input and returns a motion corrected tiff that contains "MotCorr" in its name.

Upload this motion corrected movie on your Drive and rename it as "birthdate_surgerydate_imagingdate_fieldname_MotCorr", you will need it later for the cell type inference.

⚠ If you observe a shift greater than 10% of the frame or a movie with violent and recurring shifts, you have to annotate those frames and delete them later. If there are too many of them, the best solution is to leave the movie and redo the experiment. Indeed, the relevance of the data analysis is at stake and it will become a waste of time to correct the distortions.

Creation of configuration files

Run the code nwb_yaml_generator, located at

hippocampal-network-emergence>src>deeptada. This python code will search for both excel files and transform them into panda frames, which will be stored, in .yaml format

in the directory yaml_creation>yaml_files. There are 3 configuration files: one for the abf, one for the session data and one for the subject data.

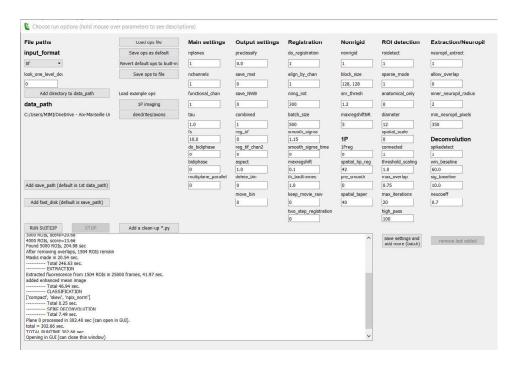
Cell segmentation

The segmentation step is performed by suite2p (that you installed before). Open an anaconda prompt, change the directory to where your file environment.yml is located and type the following commands:

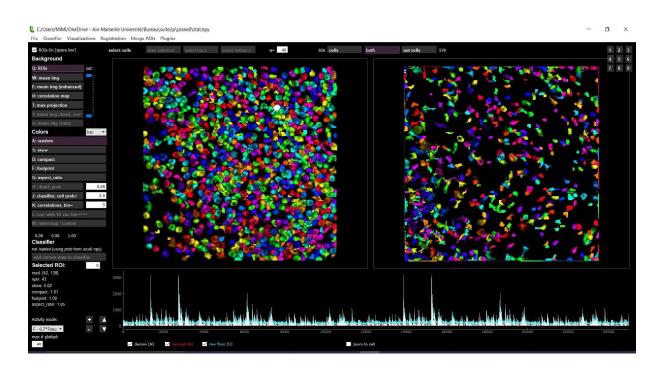
- conda activate suite2p will change the environment into a conda one.
- python -m suite2p will run the Graphic User Interface (GUI) of suite2p.

The GUI allows to visualize the calcium imaging movies, detect spikes or cells as Regions Of Interest (ROIs).

For the cellular segmentation, you only need to provide the directory where you put your tiffs and launch the segmentation. Select File > Run suite2p the "choose run options" window (below) appears. Choose your file directory with Add directory to data path and then Run SUITE2P.



The segmentation is achieved when the command "opening in GUI (can close this window)" appears. Close the window and you will find the main window with the segmentations results.



At this point, you need to adjust "by hand" the cells detected. For that, choose both options, you will obtain two frames. The left is for the cells detected as neurons by suite2p and the right frame is for those who are not neurons. To select a cell and change its class (neurons/not neurons), left-click + right-click on the highlighted neurons and it's done! If you are using a touchpad, selecting the cell and using both fingers will do the trick.

After the manual segmentation, the output is saved in the same directory as your tiffs. It's a file named suite2p with 6 .npy files and a binary (.bin) file. It gathers the outlines and the class [cell/not cell] for each outline detected (spks.npy and iscell.npy), the individual activity (F.npy: fluorescence traces and Fneu.npy: Neuropil fluorescence traces) and the statistics for each cell (stat.npy).

Prediction of the cellular type

For both classifiers, you will run them on the jupyter notebook. First you will run the cell type classifier that you will find on the gitlab (if available), if you don't find it, ask Robin D. or Julien D. .

If you are using the classifier for the first time, you need to upload and create some files:

- First, create a folder in your Google drive named 'Cl_data'. In Cl_data, create two folders 'data' and 'model'.
- In 'model', upload the model and the weights from each cellular type classifier (in .h5 and .json format): you will find them on the gitlab (if available) or with Robin D.
- In "data", create a "suite2p_id_mouse" file containing all the .npy files from the segmentation (stat, spks, ops, iscell, Fneu and F).
- In "data" again, copy the file "cell_type_yaml_files" containing the "pyr_vs_ins_vs_noise_multi_class.yaml" file.

Before launching the predictions, you need to modify a few lines in the code. First, modify the directory to where you put your motion corrected calcium imaging movie:

```
# root path, just used to avoid copying the path everywhere
root_path = 'gdrive/My Drive/CI_data/'
```

After that, change the identifier into the name of your experiment and the age of the pup.

```
# ----- #
# ----- #
identifier = "210128_210206_1_210206_a001"
# ----- #
# ----- #
# age = 9
```

After the modifications required above, run the first cell by hitting the play button. You will have to '**RESTART RUNTIME**'

```
WARNING: The following packages were previously imported in this runtime:
[numpy]
You must restart the runtime in order to use newly installed versions.

RESTART RUNTIME
TF_VERSION 2.3.0
TE_VERSION 2.3.0
```

and rerun the first cell, at this step, click on the link to retrieve the password. At the end of the re-run, this output will be displayed:

```
Requirement already satisfied, skipping |
Requirement already satisfied, skipping |
Requirement already satisfied, skipping |
TF_VERSION 2.3.0
TF_VERSION 2.3.0
Mounted at /content/gdrive
```

Now you can run the second cell and begin the predictions. At the end of the session, you will have an output similar to the picture below:

```
Time for loading movie with ScanImageTiffReader: 16.388 s
    Using segmentation from suite2p
    843 cells to predict with v58 e7
    Time to predict 843 cells: 111.572 s
    843 cells to predict with v60_e4
    Time to predict 843 cells: 102.128 s
    843 cells to predict with v61 e8
    Time to predict 843 cells: 99.841 s
    For 210128_210206_1_210206_a001 with classifier v58_e7
    Number of cells predicted in each cell type:
    729 pyramidal
    50 noise
    For 210128_210206_1_210206_a001 with classifier v60_e4
    Number of cells predicted in each cell type:
    69 interneuron
    733 pyramidal
   41 noise
    For 210128 210206 1 210206 a001 with classifier v61 e8
    Number of cells predicted in each cell type:
    95 interneuron
    710 pyramidal
    38 noise
```

The output of one cellular type classifier is a dictionary where the keys are the 3 cellular types, namely interneuron, pyramidal and noisy cell, and their associated probabilities, computed by Deepcinac. Retrieve the 3.npz output files in "**results**". Download them and keep in mind their directories, you will need them later.

Note that, it is important to make the cell type inference before the prediction of the activity, since the inference of the activity depends on the cellular type. Therefore, you must run the cell type classifier first and the 3 different activity classifiers (one for each cellular type) after.

Organize the nwb content (1st time)

After the cellular type inference, download the 3 .npz files in your local folder, with the motion corrected and original movie. Now, you need to organize your data in subfolders before inferring the neuronal activity.

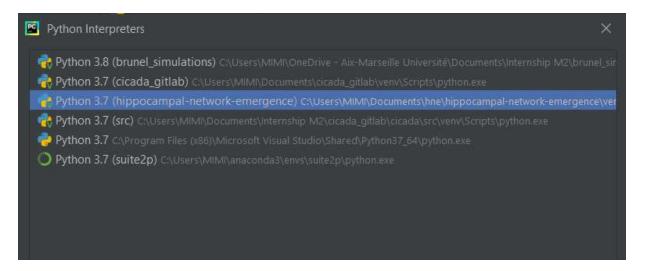
This is performed in multiple steps. First, you need the python codes from the **hne** and **deepcinac** repos that you will clone.

Warning: Before cloning the repositories, beware that you will need a computer with a GPU such that it is CUDA-enabled (check the tables on Nvidia website)

You will find the hne repos on github

https://github.com/pappyhammer/hippocampal-network-emergence. As the other repos., create a file on your disk named "hne" and clone the repos there. Create a new project by selecting the "hippocampal-network-emergence" file and add the python interpreter path by going in Settings>hippocampal-network-emergence, click on the setting button>Add... and create the new interpreter.

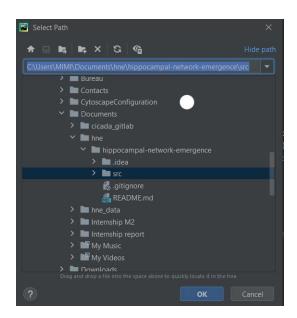
Hit the settings button again, select Show All and it should display something similar :



Here you have all the added python interpreter paths.



Select the Python interpreter for hne and click on the button bottom-right, it will display the interpreters' paths. Those are the allowed directories given to the interpreter. Use the + button to add the src file as below. This step is very important, it will allow the access of the interpreters to all the codes in this src file.

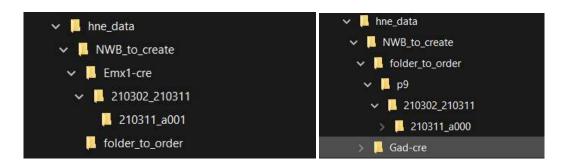


For the deepcinac repos, clone it at https://gitlab.com/cossartlab/deepcinac and put it in the "deepcinac_gitlab" file. As before add the corresponding interpreter and select the path deepcinac_gitlab>deepcinac>src to add src to the interpreter's path. For Deepcinac, you need to download some Python modules. As you did with Cicada, go in File>Settings, choose the interpreter for hne and download the modules below (see two screenshots below). Most of them are from the final version, except for tensorflow-gpu (v.1.14.0), tensorflow (v.1.14.0) and keras (v.2.2.4).

u.		
Package		Latest version
Keras	2.2.4	▲ 2.5.0rc0
Keras-Applications	1.0.8	1.0.8
Keras-Preprocessing	1.1.0	▲ 1.1.2
Markdown	3.3.4	3.3.4
Pillow	8.2.0	8.2.0
PyYAML	5.4.1	5.4.1
Shapely	1.7.1	▲ 1.8a1
Werkzeug	1.0.1	▲ 2.0.0rc4
absl-py	0.12.0	0.12.0
alt-model-checkpoint	2.0.2	▲ 2.0.3
	0.8.1	0.8.1
astunparse	1.6.3	1.6.3
cached-property	1.5.2	1.5.2
cachetools	4.2.1	▲ 4.2.2
	2020.12.5	2020.12.5
	4.0.0	4.0.0
flatbuffers	1.12	1.12
gast	0.4.0	0.4.0
google-auth	1.29.0	▲ 2.0.0.dev0
google-auth-oauthlib	0.4.4	0.4.4
google-pasta	0.2.0	0.2.0
grpcio	1.34.1	▲ 1.37.1
h5py	3.1.0	▲ 3.2.1
	2.10	▲ 3.1
importlib-metadata	4.0.1	4.0.1
keras-nightly	2.5.0.dev2021032900	▲ 2.6.0.dev2021050300
numpy	1.19.5	▲ 1.20.2
oauthlib	3.1.0	3.1.0
	3.3.0	3.3.0
+		

importlib-metadata	4.0.1	4.0.1
keras-nightly	4.0.1 2.5.0.dev2021032900	▲ 2.6.0.dev2021050300
	1.19.5	▲ 1.20.2
numpy		
oauthlib	3.1.0	3.1.0
opt-einsum	3.3.0	3.3.0
pip	21.1	▲ 21.1.1
protobuf	3.15.8	▲ 4.0.0rc2
pyasn1	0.4.8	0.4.8
pyasn1-modules	0.2.8	0.2.8
requests	2.25.1	2.25.1
requests-oauthlib	1.3.0	1.3.0
rsa	4.7.2	4.7.2
scanimage-tiff-reader	1.4.1	1.4.1
scipy	1.6.3	1.6.3
setuptools	56.0.0	56.0.0
SIX	1.15.0	1.15.0
tensorboard	1.14.0	▲ 2.5.0
tensorboard-data-server	0.6.0	0.6.0
tensorboard-plugin-wit	1.8.0	1.8.0
tensorflow	1.14.0	▲ 2.5.0rc2
tensorflow-estimator	1.14.0	▲ 2.5.0rc0
tensorflow-gpu	1.14.0	▲ 2.5.0rc2
termcolor	1.1.0	1.1.0
tifffile	2021.4.8	2021.4.8
typing-extensions	3.7.4.3	▲ 3.10.0.0
urllib3	1.26.4	1,26,4
wheel	0.36.2	0.36.2
wrapt	1.12.1	1.12.1
zipp	3.4.1	3.4.1
TIKK	2001	2000

For the creation of nwb, you will follow this architecture (you can change the name of the transgenic line but make sure to adapt it to the code):



Make sure to have 3 levels in 'folder_to_order', for instance, here the age is the first, then the birthdate_surgerydate the second level and the final one is the imagingdate_fov.

Before reorganizing the nwb content, modify the root_path, the sub_folder and the other parameters in the *cell_type_predictions_fusion.py*, *organize_data_dir_for_nwb.py* and *param_hne.txt* based on the name of your folders:

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    root_path = 'C:/Users/MIMI/Documents/hne_data'
    path_data = os.path.join(root_path, 'NWB_to_create')
# result_path = os.path.join(root_path, "results_hne/")
# time_str = datetime.now().strftime("%Y_%m_%d.%H-%M-%S")
# result_path = result_path + "/" + time_str
# if not os.path.isdir(result_path):
# os.mkdir(result_path)

cell_type_config_file = os.path.join(path_data, "pyr_vs_ins_vs_noise_multi_class.yaml")

do_it_by_type = True
fusion_with_gt = False
no_gt_to_add = True
subfolder = "Emx1-cre"
animal_id = "210302_210311"
session_id = "210311_a001"
age = 9
global_id = animal_id + "_" + session_id
```

Gather the files and folders in "**folder_to_order**". You will need the 3 configuration files in .yaml, the motion corrected movie in .tiff format (make sure it is named correctly ie id_MotCorr.tif), the original movie in .tiff (named correctly), the .abf file, the suite2p

folder (with plane0 folder content at the same level as the run file), the behavior monitoring movies and the manual annotation.

The files will be reorganized automatically by using the script organize_data_dir_for_nwb. First, add a new configuration in Pycharm: for that, click on the drop menu upper-right next to the play button. Click on Edit config.... Click on the upper left + icon to add a python configuration. Name it as you want, select the directory of the Python script you want to run, select the project linked to the script and verify the Python interpreter and the working directory. Once the configuration is settled, you can run the script.

At the end of this step, data is organized in subfolders (see figure below):



Move it in the corresponding folder Nwb_to_create > Mouse_Type > dateofbirth_surgerydate > imagingdate_a000 and also move the 3 .npz in the cell_type_predictions folders to the tmp_contours_and_type_predictions one.

The second step consists of fusing the cell type predictions. For that, locate the script $cell_type_predictions_fusion.py$ at $hne>src>cell_type_predictions_fusion.py$, modify the path to $Nwb_to_create > Mouse_Type > dateofbirth_surgerydate > imagingdate_a000$ with all the subfolders organized and run it. The script will save the $cell_type_predictions_fusion.npy$ file in the cell_type_predictions folder. Upload it in your Drive, in $Cl_data>data$.

Activity inference

List of folders needed

First, find the classifier script on the gitlab of Deepcinac (if available), otherwise, ask Robin D. or Julien D.. Again as before, do the same modifications on the script of the activity classifier.

Before inferring the neuronal activity, you will find below a list of files to gather and upload on your drive:

The models and weights from the activity classifier for each cell type (you will find it on gitlab, if available or please ask Robin D.), the **pyr_vs_ins_vs_noise_multi_class.yaml** as above, the motion corrected movie in .tiff, the .npy file gathering the new contours made on suite2p and the .npy file returned from the **cell_type_predictions_fusion.py** script.

Neuronal activity inference

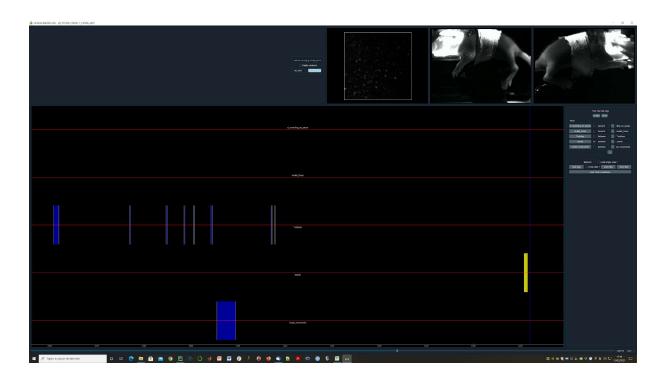
After that, run the script as with the activity classifier (*i.e.* do not forget to **rerun startime** and copy the password). The execution is longer than for the cellular type classifier (count forty minutes to more than one hour) therefore, make sure not launch it at the last minute. The output of the script will be similar to the screenshot below:

```
Time for loading movie with ScanImageTiffReader: 24.116 s
Using segmentation from suite2p
Number of cells for each cell type:
64 interneuron
746 pyramidal
33 noise
64 cells to predict with v26_5
  Time to get predictions for cell 829: 9.56 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 830: 9.537 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 831: 9.436 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 832: 9.443 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 833: 9.463 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 834: 9.512 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 835: 9.448 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 836: 9.543 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 837: 9.498 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 838: 9.403 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 839: 9.543 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 840: 9.469 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 841: 9.428 s
  Time to get predictions for cell 842: 9.482 s
  Time to predict 779 cells: 8462.483 s
```

The output of the script is kept in a dictionary as well, with Deepcinac Recording identifiers as keys and the predictions for each cell as a value.

The annotation of the behavior

This step is performed with the Badass GUI of CICADA. The GUI is designed to perform polyvalent observations. Indeed, it allows to annotate other observations than the behavior and movement: for example, the behavior monitoring (*i.e.* signals of both cameras) can be replaced with electrophysiological signals.



Once the Badass GUI is launched, select the results directory: the behavior subfolder; then, open the two behavior monitoring movies (by clicking on the two frames on the right). On the right panel, create the tags associated with the respective observations, for example: for behavior annotation, you can create "twitche", "startle", "complex movements". On the left frame, you will see multiple channels, corresponding to each tag, these channels are designed to annotate each observation (associated to the tag) for a certain period of time. To annotate the event, select the tag and simply drag it towards the respective channel, then adjust the size of the tag so that it meets the start and the end of the observation.

The GUI takes as inputs the behavior monitoring movies and the motion corrected imaging movie in .tiff format. When the annotation is done, the results are saved in a "behavior file" in .npz format. The .npz file is a zip archive which contains files (in our case, a dictionary). The files in the example above correspond to the tags and each file contains a d-array. The d-array is a N dimensional array in Python, in our case, the d-array is in 2D, the first line is the start time and the second line is the end time of the observation.

Creation of nwb files (final version)

The .nwb file is like a lab notebook, it organizes the data in an understandable way to humans and programmatic interpretation, besides, the format is designed to be usable for software tools and analysis scripts (for instance, CICADA).

After the first organization, your data should be ordered in many subfolders. Run the nwb_pre_processing.py with an adapted configuration that you will create through the same process as earlier. [Don't forget the list of files for the content of the nwb and where they should be located].

Note that if your experiment doesn't include behavior files, the creation of the nwb file is not impacted, so does the data analysis. However, nwb files cannot be modified, therefore, before creating nwb files, make sure you do not want to modify something in the preprocess, for example, the metadata content or the tags on the behavior files.

Data analysis

After the creation of the nwb file, you can perform many tasks, from the basic analysis to an advanced analysis. These tasks are well performed on CICADA. You can compute the frequency, the amplitude of the transients. You can also display the raster plots or the cellular-dependent activity from your calcium imaging movies.